

February 19 2010

Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes
Deering Building, Room 233
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the February 19, 2010 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties January 22, 2010 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on January 25, 2010.

Commission Present: Colon Durrell, Richard Cook, John Joseph, Mark Hedrich, *ex-officio* and Chairman Michael Wiers.

Commission Absent: None

Department Officials: None

Staff Present: Tim Drake, Executive Director, Audrey Shorty Resource Administrator and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

Legal Counsel: Not present

Intervenors Present: John Blake, H.P. Hood, Inc., Thomas Brigham, Oakhurst Dairy, John Economy, Garelick, Dale Cole, President of the Maine Dairy Industry Association (MDIA) and Julie-Marie Bickford, Executive Director of MDIA.

Others Present: Bill Randall of Agri-Mark, Fred Hardy of MDIA, also Ruby Hardy and Mary Frank, public attendees.

Chairman Wiers called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes: John Joseph made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2010 meeting. Richard Cook seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Agenda Item 2: Amy Mills, Assistant Attorney General: None.

Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:

Tim Drake reported that there is a prevailing premium of \$1.10/cwt on Class I for March 2010 reported by Dairy Marketing Services (DMS) and Agri-Mark Cooperative. In addition to this premium, both Agri-Mark and DMS reported that an additional \$0.43/cwt for milk that comes from producers who do not treat their cows with the rBST hormone will be in affect. Federal Order One Class I price for March is \$17.59. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.58/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for information purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Chairman Wiers asked for testimony from the intervenors.

Tom Brigham of Oakhurst asked if the new handling fee schedule was in order 03-10.

Tim Drake answered that the new handling fee schedule had been used.

John Economy stated that this would make the difference in price between stores on the border greater, perhaps as much as \$0.15 per gallon.

Julie-Marie Bickford stated that while tier payments would go out to the producers this month, there has not been any payment for five months previously. She believed it is critical to get as much money to producers as possible now. She also offered that this was a critical time for the lending community to see money going to farms, they do not have the flexibility they once had.

Dale Cole testified that feed problems persist on the farms and a lot of equipment maintenance had been deferred but had to be addressed before planting this spring.

No other testimony was offered.

Colon Durrell made a motion to accept order 03-10 as prepared with a producer margin of \$1.58/cwt. John Joseph seconded this motion. The motion passed 4-0

Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey: The Commission reviewed the Maine price survey for February 2010 which included prices for Augusta, Bangor/Brewer, Palmyra, South Portland and Brunswick. It was noted that Wal-Mart prices were generally higher this month and that MOO Milk prices were not part of the survey. IAMCA price survey information was not available.

Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:

- March 19, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- April 23, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- May 21, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- June 18, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME

Agenda Item 6: Other:

1. **Milk Commission Budget:** The Commission reviewed the latest budget summary and Tim Drake updated the Commission members on the new data base progress, OIT has stated that there will be two people assigned to this project for three months to ensure that we have a new database by June 2010.
2. **Tier program/legislation update:** Tim Drake updated the Commission on changes to the “tier program”. These changes were outlined for the commission members and those present, the changes to the program are to be effective July 1, 2010.
3. MDIA announced that their annual meeting will be held on March 16th at the Waterville Elks lodge and that all Commission members were invited to attend. Dr. Musgrave will be honored at that meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: The Commission did not go into Executive Session.

Adjourned: Adjourned at 2:12 p.m. February 19, 2010.

Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission